

# business recycling solutions



Recycling – Good for Your Business, Good for the Environment

A Publication of the Sunnyvale Commercial Recycling Program

## Local Focus Green Business Program Now in Sunnyvale

The Santa Clara County Green Business Program seeks to recognize and promote businesses and government agencies that volunteer to operate in a more environmentally responsible way. To be certified “green”, participants must be in compliance with all regulations and meet program standards for conserving energy



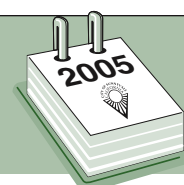
Sunnyvale's Senior Center switched to Green Seal cleaning products to become certified as a Green Business.

and water, preventing pollution and minimizing waste.

**The City's Fleet Services and the Senior Center have now officially been certified as Green Businesses!** In addition to their extensive recycling programs, both facilities are conserving water and energy. The Senior Center uses solar panels to generate electricity for the building while the landscape was designed for water conservation.

Ready to take the Green Business challenge? Visit [greenbiz.sccgov.org](http://greenbiz.sccgov.org) or contact Gretchen Hefner, Santa Clara County Green Business Specialist, at (408) 441-4329 if you would like more information about the Green Business Program.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Sunnyvale Earth Day Celebration

Friday, April 22

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Plaza del Sol

Bring lunch to the plaza and enjoy live music, speakers, interactive exhibits and local art.

Visit

[www.sunnyvalerecycles.org](http://www.sunnyvalerecycles.org) for event details.

### Business Hazardous Waste Drop-off Events

Feb. 18 • Mar. 18 • Apr. 15

Qualifying businesses may participate by appointment only.

(408) 299-7300

[www.hhw.org](http://www.hhw.org)

## Towards Sustainability A Zero Waste Strategy

Have you ever considered the possibility of reducing, reusing and recycling your company's waste until you're left with *zero waste*? If the concept sounds far-fetched, consider your company's waste for what it really is — a wasted resource. A wasted resource generally means inefficiency and wasted money which doesn't make good business sense. Even if your business can't reach zero waste, a zero waste strategy can help your business cut costs, improve competitiveness and improve environmental performance.

In November 2001, the California Integrated Waste Management Board ([www.zerowaste.ca.gov](http://www.zerowaste.ca.gov)) embraced the concept of a “Zero Waste California” in its strategic plan. Counties, cities, non-profits

and businesses are also taking on zero waste goals — how about your business?

Visit <http://grn.org/zerowaste> for more information on zero waste basics and resources for businesses.

***If you're not for zero waste, then how much waste are you for?***

**Zero Waste!**



## Refuse Report Annual Cleaning Service Available

Did you know that your refuse service fee includes one bin cleaning per year? Proper maintenance of your refuse storage area helps discourage illegal dumping and keeps your business in compliance with the municipal code by controlling odors, disease vectors, and litter.

Call City of Sunnyvale Utilities at (408) 730-7681 with your address and bin number(s) to take advantage of the annual bin cleaning service or for more information.

### Refuse Contacts

City of Sunnyvale Utilities

Garbage service changes, billing, bin cleaning  
(408) 730-7681

# Recycle It!

## Cardboard Recycling Program Cuts Waste & Costs

Sunnyvale businesses participating in the City's Commercial Cardboard Recycling Program **diverted over six million pounds**



of cardboard from the landfill in 2004! This diversion not only makes good environmental sense but also good economic sense. Businesses participating in the program are often able to *substantially reduce* their garbage costs since the fee for a three or six cubic yard cardboard recycling bin is just \$7.49 per month (compared to approximately \$190 and \$340 per month respectively for the same size garbage bin picked up one time per week).

Businesses must generate approximately 2½ cubic yards or about 200 lbs. of clean, flattened cardboard (corrugated only) per week to qualify for participation. Call Specialty Solid Waste & Recycling at (408) 566-1804 for more information.

Visit [www.sunnyvalerecycles.org](http://www.sunnyvalerecycles.org) (click on "Businesses" then "Commercial Recycling Resources") for a list of other recyclable materials and recycling service providers.

### Refuse Contacts

**Specialty Solid Waste & Recycling**  
Cardboard Recycling Service  
(408) 566-1804

**City of Sunnyvale**  
Commercial Recycling Program  
[www.sunnyvalerecycles.org](http://www.sunnyvalerecycles.org)  
(408) 730-7484  
[jbenabente@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us](mailto:jbenabente@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us)

## Your Inquiries

**Q** Is there a way to divert the bathroom paper towels that are taking up a substantial portion of my company's garbage bin?

**A** After recycling paper, cans/bottles and cardboard, some businesses may find that bathroom paper towels take up 20–50% of the remaining waste stream. If this is true for your business, you may want to consider installing roll paper towels (if multi-fold paper towel dispensers are currently in use) to reduce waste or installing electric hand blow-dryers to eliminate paper towel waste.

Check out the "Alternatives to Multi-folded Paper Towels" case study in Alameda County's Best Practices Database at <http://www.stopwaste.org/home/index.asp?page=126> for cost and waste generation comparisons of



all three hand drying options. By choosing a waste reducing option, your company may be able to reduce your ongoing disposal fees thereby covering the cost of the new equipment and installation and continuing to save your company money through the years.

**Send your questions to**  
[jbenabente@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us](mailto:jbenabente@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us).

### Business Recycling Solutions

is available online at  
[www.sunnyvalerecycles.org](http://www.sunnyvalerecycles.org)

Printed on 100% Recycled Content Paper, 50% Post Consumer Waste, with Soy-based Ink.

**Inside**  
Green Business Program Now in Sunnyvale  
A Zero Waste Strategy  
Annual Bin Cleaning Service  
Recycle Cardboard to Cut Costs

PRSRT STD  
US Postage  
PAID  
Sunnyvale, CA  
Permit No 112



City of Sunnyvale Recycling Program  
P.O. Box 3707  
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707